

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ORM-01 SR-02 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /085 W

----- 035790

R 210930Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 730

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT UNN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO UNN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS UNN

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 2653

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, IR

SUBJ: IRAN-IRAQ BORDER NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: (A) TEHRAN 2542; (B) TEHRAN 2483

1. IRAQI NEGOTIATING TEAM WHICH REMAINED AFTER FONMIN HAMMADI'S DEPARTURE (REF B) HAS NOW LEFT TEHRAN, AND NEGOTIATIONS WILL NOT RESUME UNTIL AT LEAST MARCH 22, PERHAPS IN BAGHDAD. PRIMIN HOVEYDA IS EXPECTED TO GO TO BAGHDAD MARCH 26 FOR THREE-DAY VISIT, AFTER WHICH IRAQI VP SADDAM HUSSEIN WILL VISIT IRAN. "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" IN TEHRAN QUOTED BY PRESS ARE PREDICTING BORDER AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED WITHIN TWO MONTHS AND THAT SHAH HIMSELF MAY VISIT IRAQ IN EARLY SPRING.

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2. IRAQI EMBASSY SPOKESMAN HERE PREDICTED IRAQ WOULD GRANT VISAS TO IRANIAN TRAVELLERS WITHIN ONE MONTH AND THAT TRAVEL BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WOULD RETURN TO NORMAL IN ABOUT FIVE WEEKS. FARSI PRESS MARCH 20 GAVE BANNER HEADLINES TO EXPECTATION THAT PILGRIMAGES TO NAJAF AND KERBALA WOULD RESUME SOON, AND ONE PAPER ESTIMATED SOME HALF-MILLION IRANIANS MIGHT BE WAITING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY.

3. INFLUX OF KURDISH REFUGEES INTO IRAN HAS INCREASED CONSIDERABLY FROM ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND HERE BEFORE CEASEFIRE, BUT IRANIANS ARE NOT MAKING HEADCOUNT OF NEW ARRIVALS AND ESTIMATES DIFFER WIDELY. MINISTER OF COURT ALAM TOLD AMBASSADOR MARCH 20 THERE ARE NOW SOME THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND REFUGEES, BUT FROM OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY THIS APPEARS UNLIKELY. ALAM MAY HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OF TOTAL NUMBER OF KURDS EXPECTED TO SEEK REFUGE HERE BY TIME MATTER IS SETTLED. RED LION AND SUN SOCIETY (RLSS) CHARGED WITH REFUGEE CARE IS DOING BEST IT CAN TO FIND SHELTER FOR NEW ARRIVALS IN PRIVATE HOMES, HOSPITALS, SCHOOLS AND OTHER FACILITIES, AS REFUGEE CAMPS WERE ALREADY FILLED TO CAPACITY BEFORE CEASEFIRE.

4. HOW MANY KURDISH REFUGEES WILL WANT TO RETURN TO IRAQ UNDER AMNESTY PROVISIONS AND HOW THEY WILL BE HANDLED ARE ALSO UNCERTAIN QUESTIONS. RLSS DIRECTOR IN REZAIEH TOLD CONSULATE TABRIZ HE THOUGHT NO REFUGEES WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AMNEST, WHEREAS SAVAK OFFICIAL IN KHUZISTAN TOLD CONSULATE KHORRAMSHAHR HE THOUGHT MOST KURDS IN CAMP NEAR ANDIMESHK WOULD WANT TO GO BACK. GOI AND OTHER SOURCES ALL SEEM TO BE GUESSING AT THIS POINT.

5. AMCONSUL TABRIZ IS PLANNING TRIP THROUGH AREAS OF HIS CONSULAR DISTRICT WHERE MOST REFUGEES ARE LOCATED AND HE WILL PROVIDE HARDER INFORMATION ON NUMBERS, RATE OF INFLUX, CONTROLS OVER ENTRY INTO IRAN, AND PROBABLE NUMBER WHO WILL WANT TO GO BACK. THREE CORRESPONDENTS NOW TRAVELING IN BORDER AREAS HAVE ALSO PROMISED TO SHARE INFORMATION WITH EMBASSY UPON THEIR RETURN.
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HELMS

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NNN

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